

Remarks

Claims 52-74 and 76 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 52-74 and 76 and added new claims 77-95. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the subject specification and in the claims as originally filed (see, for example, original claims 24-29 and pages 4-9 of the as-filed specification). Entry and consideration of the amendments presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 77-95 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 52-55, 57, 58, 62-64 and 69-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tuan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,549), Recillas-Targa *et al.* (2002), Chung *et al.* (1997) and Henderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,700). Claims 52-59, 62-67, 69-74 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tuan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,549), Recillas-Targa *et al.* (2002), Chung *et al.* (1997) and Henderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,700) and further in view of Perlman *et al.* (2003) and Aldrich *et al.* (1998). Claims 52-55, 57, 58, 61-64 and 69-73 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tuan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,549), Recillas-Targa *et al.* (2002), Chung *et al.* (1997) and Henderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,700) and in further view of Laus *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,194,152). Claims 52-58, 62-66, and 68-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tuan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,549), Recillas-Targa *et al.* (2002), Chung *et al.* (1997) and Henderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,700) and in further view of Anderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,898) and Aldrich *et al.* (1998). Claims 52-58, 60, 62-66, and 68-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tuan *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,395,549), Recillas-Targa *et al.* (2002), Chung *et al.* (1997), Henderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,432,700), Anderson *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,898) and Aldrich *et al.* (1998) and further in view of Adair *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,632,927). Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are now moot in view of the cancellation of the claims and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

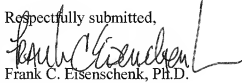
It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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